

Baby Fae Called Inspiration At Service In City Of Birth

BARSTOW, Calif. (AP) — The only human baby to undergo a baboon heart transplant was eulogized Saturday as a "grain of wheat that has already brought much fruit."

About 25 people from the desert city where Baby Fae was born and a horde of media representatives attended the 45-minute memorial service at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

The parents of Baby Fae did not attend the service. Baby Fae underwent the surgery Oct. 26 and died Nov. 15.

The chaplain who counseled and prayed with Baby Fae's mother before the operation at Loma Linda University Medical Center was on hand to remember the infant who survived 20 days with the walnut-sized heart of a baboon.

"We were all disappointed, but not discouraged," Chaplain Bill Hinton said.

The infant's struggle was an inspiration to young and old, Hinton said, relating the story of one woman who decided not to commit suicide because she was inspired by Baby Fae's struggle.

The Rev. Desmond Ditchfield, pastor of St. Joseph's, said Baby Fae's life "was as a grain of wheat that has already brought much fruit."

The child's godparents, Helena and Rick Atwood of Barstow, said the infant's short life had given them

"sunrises and hope." Meanwhile, more than a week after their daughter's death, Baby Fae's parents said that they believed they had done the right thing by allowing the experimental surgery and that they were still getting sympathy mail and donations.

"I never had any doubt that we had done the right thing," Teresa, the baby's mother, said in an interview in the current issue of People magazine. "How can it be wrong to save a little girl's life?"

"Well, I'll tell you this — if there had been a human heart available and I had the choice of that or a baboon heart, I would have chosen the heart that was most compatible with her, whatever it was," Teresa said. "There are a lot of sentimental ways of talking about the heart, but it's just a pump."

People magazine, which is based in New York, bought exclusive rights to Baby Fae's story for an undisclosed sum. It said the parents, identified only by their first names, were unmarried and had separated before Baby Fae's birth.

But the father, Howard, said he had returned when he learned that their child had a fatally underdeveloped heart.

"And so she introduces me to Fae, and says, 'You know, she's dyin','" he recalled. "... Then I held her, and we had a few tears flowing there."

Obituaries

D. Robert Werner; Pioneer In Business Aviation Field

A funeral Mass for D. Robert Werner, a pioneer in the field of business aviation, will be celebrated Monday at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of the Pillar Catholic Church, 401 South Lindbergh Boulevard. Burial will be Tuesday in Fort Atkinson, Wis.



Werner

Mr. Werner, of Frontenac, died of a heart attack Friday morning in St. John's Mercy Medical Center. He was 68.

He was a founding partner of Remmert-Werner Inc., a company based in St. Louis that made millions of dollars and an international reputation as customizers of executive aircraft. When the company began in 1944, it restored World War II planes for sale to companies in the then-emergent field of business aviation.

At one point the company employed 750 workers and was the exclusive distributor of the Sabreliner, plush executive jets used by companies around the world. In 1968, the company was bought out by a division of Rockwell International,

and Mr. Werner retired. In 1977, Mr. Werner joined an elite group — including Charles A. Lindbergh, Edward V. Rickenbacker and James S. McDonnell — as the recipient of the Meritorious Service Award for outstanding contributions to aviation, given by the National Business Aircraft Association. The award cited Mr. Werner's "pioneering contributions" to business aviation.

At the time of his death, he was a board member and active with Wings of Hope Inc., a non-profit group that he had helped found in St. Louis to fly air-relief missions around the world.

Mr. Werner, a native of Fort Atkinson, came to St. Louis as a student at Parks Air College, where he graduated with a degree in aeronautical engineering. For five years before co-founding Remmert-Werner Inc., he worked for Curtis-Wright and Lockheed aircraft companies.

Surviving are his wife, Geraldine; three daughters, Mary Anne of Baltimore, Joan Marie of Pasadena, Calif., and Sally Gay of Fort Worth, Texas; three sons, Dennis Robert Jr. of El Centro, Calif., Michael R. and Terry Alan, both of St. Louis; his mother, Elizabeth; and a brother, Donald, both of Fort Atkinson.

Joseph A. Eckelkamp; Priest In Riverton, Ill.

A celebrated funeral Mass for the Rev. Joseph A. Eckelkamp, a priest in the Order of Franciscan Missionaries, will be at 11 a.m. Monday at St. James Church in Riverton, Ill. Burial will be in St. Francis Borgia Cemetery in Washington, Mo.

The Rev. Mr. Eckelkamp died Friday at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Ill., after a long illness. He was 65.

After 2 p.m. Sunday, his body will lie in the sanctuary of St. James Church, where he was the associate pastor. He also was rector of religious education for adults and children in the Decatur and Springfield deaneries.

The Rev. Mr. Eckelkamp was born and reared in Washington. He was ordained in 1946 and sent to Corpus

Christi Church in Chicago, where he was associate pastor until 1952. For the next two years, he was pastor of St. Bonaventura Church in Columbus, Neb. He returned to Chicago in 1954 as mission procurator in the Franciscan mission office. In 1961, he was made pastor of St. Mary's Church in Memphis, Tenn., where he remained until being sent to St. James Church in 1974.

He also was active in the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Apostolate.

Surviving are two sisters, Martha Puzaski of St. Louis and Sister Miriam Jo Eckelkamp OSF of Joliet, Ill.; and three brothers, the Rev. David OFM of Oak Brook, Ill., Jack of Labadie, and William F. of Villa Ridge.

Marie Ann Zimmer; Was Retired Nurse

A funeral Mass for Marie Ann Zimmer, a member of the first graduating class at the DePaul Hospital School of Nursing, will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Vincent's Catholic Church in Cape Girardeau. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery there.

Miss Zimmer, 75, died Friday of cancer at Southeast Missouri Hospital in Cape Girardeau. She was in the first graduating class of nurses at DePaul

here in 1930 and worked as a registered nurse there until 1938. She served in the Army Nurses Corps in World War II and returned in 1956 to Cape Girardeau, where she was reared, to work as a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital. She retired in 1977.

Surviving are three brothers, Jerome of Cape Girardeau, Edward of Silver Springs, Fla., and Robert of Ocala, Fla.; and a sister, Harriett Hugel, of Springfield, Ill.

Sister Mary Hoffmann; Longtime Teacher

A funeral Mass for Sister Mary Ernest Hoffmann, C.S.J., an elementary school teacher in St. Louis parochial schools for many years, will be celebrated at 7 p.m. Monday at Nazareth Convent, 2 Nazareth Lane, Mehlville. Burial will be at Nazareth Cemetery.

Sister Hoffmann died Saturday at Nazareth Convent after a long illness. She was 82.

She was born in Indianapolis and became a Sister of St. Joseph in 1920. She taught school in Chicago, Green Bay, Wis., Hannibal, Mo., Kansas City and St. Louis. In St. Louis, she taught at St. Cecelia, St. Edward, St. Margaret and St. Thomas of Aquin schools. She retired in 1974.

Surviving are three sisters, Clara Landwerlin, Bertha Brand and Betty Hermann, and a brother, Robert Hoffmann, all of Indianapolis.

LeRoy M. Fink; Edwardsville Dentist 55 Years

Funeral services for Dr. LeRoy M. Fink, who had a dental practice in Edwardsville for 55 years, will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Edwardsville, with burial in Calvary Cemetery in Edwardsville Township.

Dr. Fink, 89, died of infirmities Friday night at his home. He had been in poor health for six months. He served as a dentist in the Army

in both World War I and World War II and practiced in Edwardsville until his retirement in the mid-1970s.

He is survived by his wife, Gladys, with whom he lived on Route 6; a son, Dr. LeRoy L. Fink, a St. Louis surgeon; three daughters, all of Edwardsville, Marion Richards, Doris Bardenmeier, and Beverly Gorman; 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

BURKART, JAMES C. Sat. Nov. 24, 1984, 68, died of cancer. Burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, 118 North Fidelity Rd., Ferguson, Mo. Visitation after 1 p.m. Mon. at St. Joseph's.

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Funeral directors: ALBERT H. HOPPE, 361-0500; BOPF CHAPEL, Kirkwood; HUTCHENS MORTUARY, 431 GRANITE RD.; JOHN STYGAR & SON, 9025 Hols Ferry Rd.